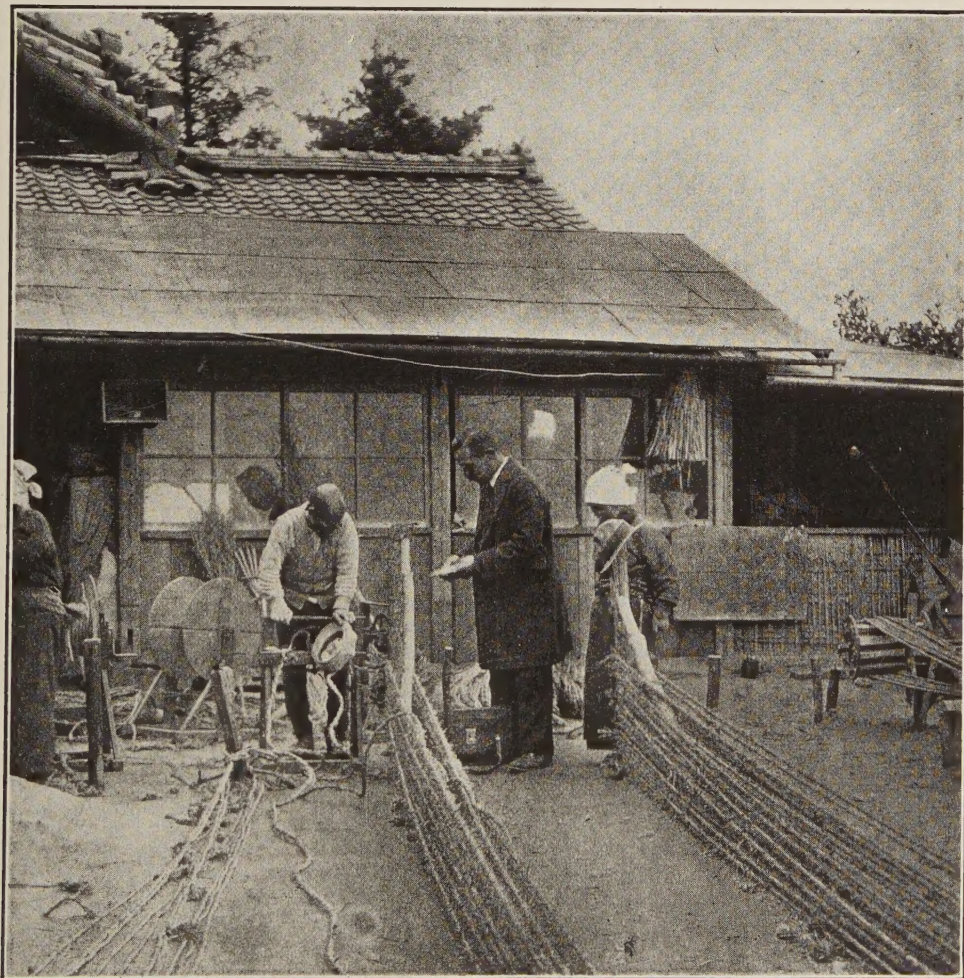
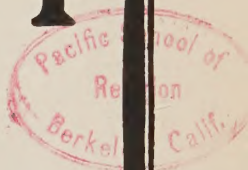


BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



RURAL COLPORTEURING IN JAPAN
The farmer efficiently using spare time in making rope
(See first article)

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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Glad Endings

By the Rev. Karl E. Aurell, Secretary, Japan Agency

Comments on, and facts from, the work of 1931

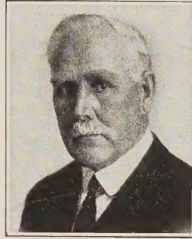
WE praised God for what was accomplished in 1930. But we felt that the decrease in the circulation of Scriptures reported for that year ought not to be repeated this year. Yet, looking ahead, the outlook for 1931 was rather discouraging. Nevertheless, should we, like people in ordinary vocations of life, allow ourselves to begin our work in a pessimistic spirit? No; far be it from us! Therefore, despite the discouraging aspect of the year before us, we earnestly prayed for courage to set the goal at a million copies. Hesitation was brushed aside and the proposition sprung on our workers.

As was expected, the idea staggered our force. It appeared so hopeless of achievement. Yet, as it is up to us to take the knowledge of the Saviour Jesus Christ to the people in every crook and nook of this field by the distribution of the Scriptures, we all asked God to help us face our task in true faith.

We planned largely and determined to work our plans. We issued a new edition of Portions which could be sold at a sen a copy. We launched out and pushed hard. It was not easy. Difficulties were encountered—much weakness and faint-heartedness had to be overcome.

Colporteurs Are Human but Fine

We are constantly studying the different phases of the work with a view to improvement. But human bodies have to be utilized in carrying on. They are not inanimate machines. Men get tired—sick—terribly weary at times. That reacts banefully on their spirits. It is a tremendous task to keep field workers happy and enthusiastic. They must be well fed in more than one sense. To keep colporteurs going strong, year in and year out, means much more than folks generally have any conception.



Secretary Aurell

They have families which they love and feel responsibility for. Absences mean no little sacrifice both to the men and to their families. Every feature of human life must be recognized and given due consideration, in order to obtain their best service.

The colporteur is not an indifferent sort of salesman doing this work by which he makes a living. No, thank God! As far as I can see, each colporteur has the salvation of man and the glory of God at heart. So we set forth.

Our Rural Field

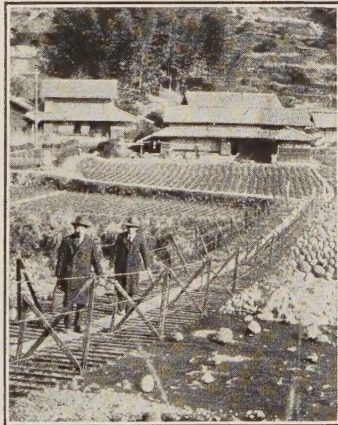
For the first time, so far as our records show, an approximate total of 373 new villages with about 232,000 people were visited. In addition, 98 cities and towns visited in previous years were reached. We began this intensive

systematic house-to-house canvass in the great earthquake year—1923. However, we found ourselves not getting into, and over, the strictly rural districts until about three years ago. Then it was we began to push out in earnest into the villages and hamlets. There are at least 4,500 of these in our territory. But we cannot work them the year round. During the seeding time and gathering of crops it is impracticable. Taking an average of new villages reached during the last two years as a basis, one makes the startling discovery that, with the present number of workers, it will take us

about ten years more in this field to get into every village once. Such an observation speaks loudly.

When the Year Ended

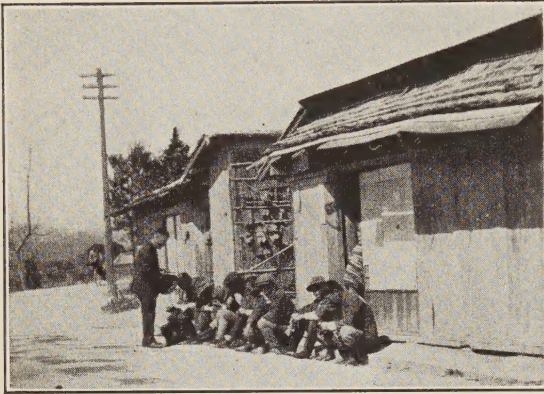
This Agency, occupying the northern half of the empire, covers 21 prefectures, including Saghalien, with an area aggregating almost 95,000 square miles having a population of



COLPORTEURS CROSSING A STREAM BETWEEN HAMLETS

33,228,886. During the year 30 colporteurs traveled about 72,522 miles up and down this territory, canvassing 496,231 houses in 471 towns and villages. They sold a total of 671,565 copies of Scriptures.

When the year ended we found, to our joy and almost amazement, that we had gone eighty thousand over the million set as our goal. There



COLPORTEUR AT WORK ON A HIGHWAY

were 11,624 Bibles, 57,668 Testaments, and 1,011,224 Portions, or a total of 1,080,516 Scripture volumes circulated. It is the largest year's distribution in the history of the Agency.

On Hokkaido and Saghalien

One of the outstanding features in the labors of our colporteurs this year was the five-month period spent on Hokkaido and Saghalien, where work of this sort has not been done for the last six years. Owing to the fact that, in these great northern islands, the houses in the farm districts are absolutely scattered and far between, ordinary methods of canvassing them are impracticable. How to reach the farmers up there is a problem to be solved. Therefore, the work done there this time was almost entirely limited to cities and towns, in which a total of 336,883 portions were sold. Remarkable incidents of the power of the Word of God in the lives of men reported from there must be omitted for lack of space.

The Koreans of Tokyo

A communication from the Koreans of Tokyo through a pastor has come to the Agency. The gist of it is as follows:

"While wondering how we might effectively spread the gospel among the 80,000 Koreans in this city and suburbs, we were tremendously encouraged by the interest manifested by the Secretary of the American Bible Society in our problem. Mr. Kim's employment by the Society has proved a great boon to Christian work among our countrymen. As a result, two or-

ganized churches have arisen, with 100 and 85 believers respectively. One of them holds three Sunday schools with a total of ninety children, and the other, a Sunday school with sixty children. In addition to that, a regular gospel service is held in another community. We profoundly feel that we have the Bible Society to thank for this remarkable result."

Miracles

One day a man with his wife, entering the salesroom, asked the clerk if they might have a private conversation with the Secretary. Upon learning who they were, it was gladly granted. In the very pleasant time we had together, it was learned that about fourteen years ago, while the Bible House was at Yokohama, they wrote to us for a copy of the Bible.

The husband was an invalid at that time, having been reduced to great weakness from years of suffering from a spinal disease. His wife, a Christian, who was afflicted with tuberculosis, suggested that it might be good for him to read the Bible; but he never felt disposed to do so, until despondency over his hopeless condition began to creep into his heart. Then he started to read the Bible.

Lying on his back, he found the book too heavy to hold. Therefore, they wrote again and asked if we could not divide up the lightest copy we had into many parts and bind them in paper covers. We were glad to do that. From that time probably no man ever read the Bible more closely and diligently than he did. Both he and his wife had no hopes of recovering



VISITING AN AINU FAMILY ON SAGHALIEN

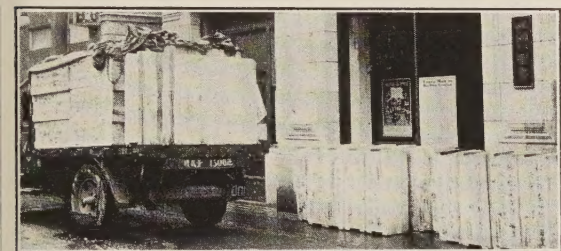
The bearded man with his daughters belong to the aboriginal Ainu, and live in such a hut as in the background. Notice the bear-cub pet of one daughter.

health, and therefore sought, with their whole hearts, for something that would become a source of comfort.

"He Can Heal Me"

One day, when he opened a part of the New Testament, his eyes fell on an instance of

bodily healing performed by Jesus. It greatly interested him. Next time he opened another part of the New Testament. Again a similar story was read, and he was mightily moved. He said to himself: "Jesus is the same to-day. He can heal me." Enthusiasm swept into his heart, and, as he told his wife what he had discovered, she too was affected the same way.



A SINGLE SHIPMENT OF SCRIPTURES

They read and reread one instance after another of how Jesus healed folks, and it occurred to them that to trust Jesus for their healing was their only hope: they decided then and there to commit their cases to him.

The very moment they did that, they became conscious of the beginning of change taking place in their emaciated bodies. "O wonder of wonders!" they exclaimed, and their eyes were flooded with tears, and joybells began to ring in their hearts.

It was not an instantaneous healing, but a gradual recovery. They *knew* the unseen hand of Jesus had touched them, and their happiness words could not express. The wife rapidly grew strong; but it took years for our brother to regain full strength. But never did he lose the assurance that Jesus had healed him.

Passing On the Blessing

Now they are in charge of an independent group (Church) of Bible Christians. He said, "The work is heavy enough for the strongest man, but I do not mind it. It seems to me we are both getting stronger as the years go by." He was dressed in a native flowing garment, and, suddenly rising to his feet, he said: "Look and feel the hump on my back. But there is no illness in it now! Praise God!" No doubt could be entertained. We rejoiced with them—praising God.

In departing, he handed Mr. Tanaka and myself an envelope each, saying: "Only a little token of how thankful we are to you." Afterward, we found those envelopes contained five and ten yen respectively. This money seemed so sacred that we immediately turned it into the funds of the Agency, and wrote to our happy friends that we hope their thanksgiving gift will bring many similar blessings to others as they read that sweet story of old of Jesus and his love and power to save and heal both body and soul.

• • •

The President Evangelized Him

READERS of the August, 1931, RECORD may remember the story it carried about Guatemala receiving the Cakchiquel New Testament. Presentation by Secretary Gregory of our Agency and the Rev. W. D. Townsend, the translator, of a copy to General Ubico, President of Guatemala, was therein recounted and the President quoted as saying, "This book marks a great forward movement in our civilization."

Through missionary channels now comes the report of a most welcome sequence in which President Ubico helped to make true his statement.

An Indian evangelist was holding meetings in the town of Comalapa. At the close of a service, he asked if any present would like to accept the Lord as his Saviour. In response, an Indian stood, and later was received into the Christian faith. Asked how he had become interested in the gospel, he replied that President Ubico had introduced him to it. This was how it happened:

Some action of the government had disturbed his fellow townsmen, and they had appointed him to go and see the President, in protest. When at last he obtained an interview, the President received him kindly, told him that the trouble with the Indians in Comalapa, as elsewhere, was that they were bound by customs, superstitions, and ignorance, which held them back and kept them poor. What they needed was to break loose—to make progress. Then, taking out of his pocket his Cakchiquel New Testament, the President handed it to the Indian and asked him to read some of it. He so did, and thereby showed he could read. The President then advised him to get a copy and read it at home with his fellow townsmen, saying that through that book, they would learn how to make true progress.

Thus it was that he learned of the New Testament, later obtained a copy and, as a result, wished to be received as a Christian. He proudly says that the President evangelized him.

Bible Distribution at Angel Island

By the Rev. A. Wesley Mell, Secretary, Pacific Agency

AFTER twenty years of enthusiastic service to the "strangers" arriving in this country, Miss Katherine Maurer, deaconess missionary, recently declared the year 1931 was in certain particulars the "best" of all. During it 14,000 immigrants, speaking 39 languages, passed through Angel Island immigration station. To all of them has been given helpful service and to thousands the printed Gospel. At Christmas time services were held among three groups. Gospels and New Testaments were distributed to some three hundred of thirty different nationalities, of whom fourteen were East Indians. Gospels are given to the needy with shoes, shirts, suits, handkerchiefs, stockings, gloves, and other practical gifts.

The Bible distribution has been chiefly in English, Japanese, Philippine, Korean, and Russian languages; but the Scriptures in nearly twoscore of other languages have been needed to reach all the people, so as to give to each

the gospel in his own language. These Scriptures have been gratefully received and many have expressed their pleasure. The Mexican-born Chinese reverently took off their hats, standing when receiving the Scriptures.

When Countess Tolstoy came to the immigration station, traveling as she thought her father would have desired her to travel, she arrived among the third class on the steamer. Given, as was given each of the other immigrants, a "Manual of Instructions," a copy of the "Constitution of the United States," and a Gospel, she expressed her pleasure at these gifts and said she "thought it very significant that, on entrance to the United States, she should receive a Gospel, which was to her the secret of the liberty and progress of America."

"The Silent Missionary" can speak all the languages, is always available, never fails in giving an effective message of Christ, and can stay with every traveling stranger coming or going.

"My Country 'Tis of Thee"

JUST one hundred years ago, on July 4, 1832, the hymn "America" was sung in public for the first time, at the Park Street Church, Boston, by a chorus of children. Then none, least of all its author, foresaw the grip that hymn was to have on patriotic hearts and the service it was to render to his beloved country. Now, in 1932, Congress has resolved, "That this one hundredth anniversary of the first public singing of "America" be commended to all citizens for appropriate recognition in connection with the celebration of Independence Day on the fourth day of July, 1932."

The occasion and inspiration for the writing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," beloved of millions, happily are matters of clear record.

In 1831, a New York educator visited Germany in search of ideas and material for use in the schools of the United States; there discovered the place music played in schools and in public, and so brought back some of the school music books. These were given to Lowell Mason, a pioneer in the introduction of music in Boston public schools. He, not knowing German, sent the books to Samuel Francis Smith, then a young theological student at Andover, Massachusetts, noted alike for his poetic and linguistic gifts, asking that words be supplied for some of the German music. Mr. Smith, attracted by the simple and natural movement of one of the tunes, glanced at the

German words, saw they were patriotic and, himself an ardent patriot, felt inspired to write a patriotic hymn. Seizing paper and pen, in half an hour the words of the hymn were in form substantially as they are sung today, and

THE WORD OF GOD*

BLEST Word of God, our help, our stay!
Our star by night, our sun by day!
Our compass o'er life's pathless sea!
Our guide, O God, to heaven and Thee!

Blest source of truth, Thy voice we hear;
Thy precepts love, Thy law revere!
God's hand on every leaf we trace;
In every page we see His face!

How free the pardon it reveals!
How rich the covenant love it seals!
How safe on its Amen to rest,—
The Word of God forever blest!

Far as the homes of man are known,
Reign Thou, Jehovah, God alone!
Send forth Thy Spirit with Thy Word,
Till all earth's millions own Thee, Lord!

* One of Dr. Smith's poems.

later went to Mr. Mason. To the author's surprise, this hymn was chosen by Mr. Mason for the service already mentioned, and rapidly became our country's most popular patriotic hymn.

Dr. Smith, who lived to be almost ninety, and had a career of wide usefulness in the ministry and as a writer, was both a fervent patriot and a vigorous advocate of foreign missions. The volume of his poetical writings contains sixty patriotic hymns or odes and eighteen missionary hymns and odes. One of the latter is the well-known hymn, "The morning light is breaking," while another, "Shine on 'Lone Star,'" had a momentous effect at its first read-

ing. Back in 1853, the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, in serious financial straits, was about to discontinue its missions among the Telugus of South India. The night before decisive action was to be taken, Dr. Smith wrote that hymn and in the morning handed it to the presiding officer, who read it to the convention, with the result that the mission was preserved, and became one of the notable mission successes of the last century.

Tents, Cars, Buggies, and Boats

By the Rev. Paul Penzotti, Secretary, La Plata Agency

THE accompanying picture has just come from Dr. C. F. Yoder, of Rio Cuarto, some four hundred miles to the west of us. Dr. Yoder and his workers believe in Bible circulation. For years they have been running a Bible auto, and we have furnished the books gratis for this important work.

Lately, Dr. Yoder has added a small tent to his equipment. He states that all the pastors in his mission do colportage work part of the time, although they have one man who gives all his time to it. During the last year, they distributed thousands of books all over that section of the country.

Now, with the tent, they generally remain about one week in each place, holding services and offering the Bible to all who come to hear



Secretary Penzotti

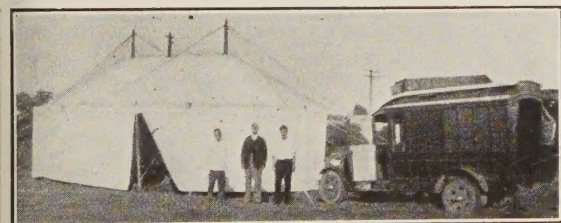
cost him \$700 Argentine currency, our Agency contributing the sum of \$300.

The boat is now ready, and Mr. Tulin left about two weeks ago, with a good supply of Bibles, to work in the delta of the Paraná River. He is one of our best colporteurs and deserves the help and sympathy of our Society. He has a very large field in which to work, as he expects to travel up the Paraná River after he is through in the delta. He will be able to visit a great many towns along the rivers of Argentina that up to now have not been visited by our colporteurs.

An Extensive Territory

The territory covered by our colporteurs has been very extensive. The large province of Buenos Aires was fully canvassed by the different Bible coaches of the Evangelical Union of South America, the Mennonites, Doctor Yoder, of Rio Cuarto, and Alberto Garcia. Besides these coaches, a large number of colporteurs of different denominations have worked extensively by rail as well as on horseback.

The provinces of Entre Rios, Corrientes, Córdoba, and Mendoza were canvassed by our

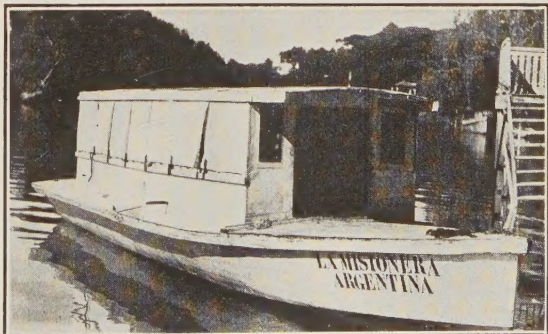


THE TENT AND CAR

the preaching. They have had great success in this kind of work, and many books have been placed in the hands of people who would never have attended a church service.

"The Argentine Missionary"

The second picture is of a small boat, built by our most energetic colporteur, Ernesto Tulin, a Frenchman. He has named the boat The Argentine Missionary. For several years this colporteur has traveled very extensively all over this country in his old Ford (see RECORD, January, 1931), selling an average of two hundred Bibles every month. But the Ford refuses to function any longer. It has gone to pieces. So Mr. Tulin built this launch, which



"THE ARGENTINE MISSIONARY"

faithful colporteur Severo Angulo, who has a horse and buggy and is ever on the go. He has had good success in distributing the Bible.

Besides our colporteurs, there are a goodly number of men working for different denominations, specially the Adventists, who visit the far-away places which are difficult to reach. Perhaps, the greatest problem we have to confront is the vast extent of our territory, which makes our work of reaching the people expensive and difficult.

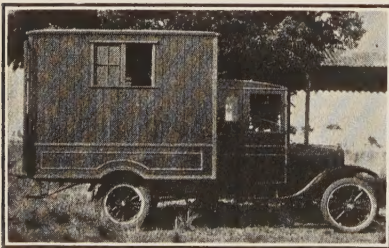
Immigration a Problem

The fact that the United States of America has closed its door to immigration has created quite a problem for Argentina; for a great number of immigrants are coming our way. Many large and very flourishing colonies of immigrants are scattered all over this vast country. This affords our Society a great opportunity. The work of our colporteurs among them is very fruitful. In many cases, the visit of the colporteur is the only opportunity for spiritual help such groups have during the whole year. We are glad that some of our colporteurs can speak German, Russian, Polish, etc., and are able to hold services among these immigrants. We have met a number of Christian workers among them who are heroically pursuing their work in the face of a great need.

Peaceful Uruguay

Uruguay is the only country included in the La Plata Agency that did not have any political unrest or revolutions during the year. Our work in the capital is done by colporteur Antonio Fidalgo, a well-known character. With his bicycle, he travels all over Montevideo and the surrounding country, and always reports good sales. The rest of the country has been well canvassed by the Bible coach in charge of R. L. Chaplin, and the Secretary in charge of this Agency.

The strongest denomination in Uruguay is the Waldensian. Some colonists came to Urugu-



THE F. G.
PENZOTTI
BIBLE
COACH
IN ITS
YOUNGER
DAYS

guay about sixty years ago, and settled in the state of Colonia. Today we find twelve large congregations, with nearly ten thousand Waldensians. Both politically and economically, they are the strongest in Colonia. The Waldensians like to call themselves "El pueblo de la Biblia," which interpreted means "The people of the Bible." They are very much interested

in our Bible work, and it is through their generosity that we are able to continue with the work of the "F. G. Penzotti" Bible coach, which was donated by them five years ago.

Besides our own colportage work, there are quite a number of other workers who are visiting the interior continually; so that we can state that Uruguay is the best canvassed country in this Agency and possibly in Latin America. This is due specially to the good roads to be found in this republic.

In Paraguay

Our work in Paraguay, for several years, has been done with the valuable help of the missionaries. Some time ago, through the offer of one



THE BEAUTIFUL ALBA

of our missionary workers, our Society invested in a Paraguayan Bible coach, which consisted of an oxcart with two yoke of oxen. Traveling was very slow and expensive, and after a while colporteur, cart and oxen disappeared in the jungles of Paraguay. Due to the very bad roads, the colporteurs travel mostly on horseback.

Perhaps the most interesting piece of missionary work in Paraguay is being done by the beautiful launch Alba (Dawn). Mr. Airth is the man who lives in that floating Bible House. He travels very extensively up the Paraguay River, clear into Brazil, a work which keeps him away from home months at a time.

Support Continued in Hard Times

It is again with great pleasure that we are able to write that the La Plata Agency has met with a number of people who believe in its work and are willing to help it financially. Our donations received for the year 1931 amount to the sum of \$2,486.62, which is really remarkable, when we remember the great financial crisis we are passing through. Most of the money has been raised in Argentina. The equivalent in Argentine currency is \$6,223.55.

Altogether, during 1931, in the La Plata Agency there were circulated 12,530 Bibles, 17,659 Testaments, and 64,020 Portions, or a total of 94,209 volumes of Scripture.

Don Calixto's Concern and Other Matters

By John Ritchie, Secretary, Upper Andes Agency

ANATIVE Christian, an old man who has earned for himself a reputation for uprightness and sincerity, called at our depository to seek help in a matter which burdened his soul. It was just before the new President Lt. Col. Luis M. Sanchez Cerro assumed his office.

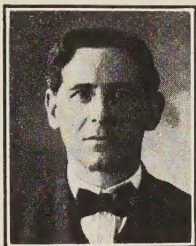
Don Calixto Vallejo had a concern, as the Puritans would have said, to put a Bible into the hands of the president elect; but he was too poor to buy such a book as ought to be given in such a case. Having known and esteemed this old bronzed saint for many years, one felt that the few simple but fervent words of presentation of a man whose soul was on fire would make a greater impression on the plain, blunt president-soldier than the polished address of any official commission. Here was something the Holy Spirit had started—not the plan of a committee. So a suitable Bible, with the name stamped in gold on the front cover, was promised him.

The book was soon ready, but in the crowd of sycophants Don Calixto was doomed to several disappointments before he could carry out his mission. He, however, had faith and, therefore, patience to persevere. The interview finally came in an opportune moment, when he could get the quiet attention of Señor Sanchez Cerro. Don Calixto gives the following account of his interview:

"After congratulating the President on his election, and wishing him a happy and prosperous period of government, and then placing in his hands the sacred volume, I said:

"'Commandant, I bring you the book which served as inspiration to Queen Victoria, grandmother of the present King of England, and which also has been the standard of conduct of the successive Presidents of the United States from Washington to Hoover. If you, my dear Commandant, will read it as you undertake your duties of government, I have faith to believe that, just as you ascend to the supreme power with the good will of all Peru, so, when you have completed your period and lay down the power, you will do so enjoying this same good will.' I then embraced him, shook hands with him, and we parted."

Don Calixto came away feeling as one of the prophets of old might have felt after delivering his message. There was a wealth of significance in that brief and simple speech of presentation, wholly adequate to the occasion.



Secretary Ritchie

Advance in 1931

Evangelical work in Peru marked a valuable advance in 1931. Several of the missions and churches held very successful institutes for workers greatly in advance of former years. These are developing among the Christian workers a clearer understanding of the movement, and a better grasp of its methods, which, as the years go on, must be very helpful to the cause of the gospel and of Scripture circulation.

The Huancayo Fair

One of the greatest Indian fairs in Peru is found in Huancayo. Thousands of Indians, in their brightly colored garb, come from a wide region around to trade their products and buy supplies. Mr. W. Stanley Rycroft organized a Scripture-selling campaign in the great fair of the National Independence holiday, in connection with a Methodist workers' institute. He prepared and led thirteen volunteer workers, most of whom have never tried to sell anything before. The result of a half-day's work amid the bustle of the fair was a sale of 1,249 Bibles and portions, and a group of enthusiastic youths who had discovered the delight of effective service.

Mr. Rycroft also spent a day with another missionary schoolmaster, Mr. H. W. Yoder, among the villages of the region, speaking to the people at work in the fields and selling the Scriptures. They took eggs in payment of a number of books sold, as the Indians have little or no money. When he told the story of the Prodigal Son to a group of ten field workers, one man was moved to tears, but not one of them had one cent with which to buy a copy of the book containing the story. The missionaries bought copies for them.

In Ecuador and Bolivia

During 1931, the Society had only two colporteurs at work in Ecuador, instead of the three formerly employed; but by dint of persistent and devoted labor under the wise administration of Mr. Reed, the circulation for the year surpassed previous records, the total being more than double that for 1929. Besides the Spanish issues which form the great bulk of the circulation, sales were effected principally in Quechua and Arabic.

In Bolivia, evangelical work marked two definite advances during the year. The church in Aiquile, formerly supported by the Bolivian

Indian Mission, set out on its self-supporting career, undertaking also the evangelization of two provinces. Pastor Agustin Garcia is a good leader, and the missionaries are well pleased with the results. Then the workers of the Bolivian Indian Mission have explored the



"AN INDIAN HOTEL IN THE OPEN AIR"
A group of Aymaras

region of Valle Grande with a view to permanent occupation. In this region, a large number of the inhabitants read Spanish, and 675 copies of the Scriptures were sold in a few days on that tour.

The year has been marked by a widespread interest in the gospel, especially among the Quechua and Aymara Indians, and there has been an interest displayed among the middle class in forwarding the evangelization.

Colporteur Sabha Again

Colporteur Sabha [the Arabian colporteur of whose work these columns have given several accounts.—Ed.] attained to new heights in 1931, when he visited Siete Suyos and San Juan, mining camps at elevations of 14,000 and 15,000 feet. In both places, he sold the Scriptures and preached the gospel. He made his first visit to the modern town of Atocha, which was for some time the railhead for travel to and from Argentina, and had very good sales there. In Santivanez, where he also broke ground, he preached twice, but was set upon by a group of fanatics, who threatened to kill him. In Toco, where he had formerly been stoned, he paid a return visit, and on this occasion had good sales and a kindly hearing. He also had good sales in Sucre, the proud and fanatical legal capital, to which he was paying his first visit.

In the streets of La Paz, some market women almost raised a riot about him for offering the Bible; on another occasion, while selling the Gospels to a young man, a young lady interfered and protested publicly against the circulation of his books. This gathered a crowd, the colporteur explained, and several people bought sets of the Four Gospels and Acts.

For the whole Agency our figures show a circulation, during 1931, of 3,465 Bibles, 18,093 Testaments, and 102,387 Portions, or a total of 123,945 volumes of Scripture.

• • •

The First Published Greek New Testament

THERE has recently been added to the Society's Historical Collection of Printed Scriptures a book to be respected and admired. It is a copy of the *first published* Greek New Testament, printed in Basel, Switzerland, in 1516. The Greek Testament in the Complutensian Polyglot was printed earlier, but not published until 1517. Johann Froben, the printer, wanted the distinction of publishing the first Greek Testament and sent a request in the spring of 1515 to Desiderius Erasmus, the most famous scholar of his time, to come from England to Basel to prepare the text. From the best manuscripts available in the short time before him Erasmus prepared such a text, having in some cases to translate into Greek passages from the Latin Vulgate where his manu-

scripts failed him. By September the printing was begun and in March of 1516 the book was published. Beside the Greek text, in parallel column, is a Latin translation made by Erasmus and, after the text, are pages of annotations.

While, from a critical point of view, the text is inferior to that of the Complutensian, Erasmus' edition, appearing first and being smaller and cheaper, was of much greater influence on the later history of the New Testament. It was on revisions of this 1516 text that were based Luther's German translation and the English King James Version, as well as other translations of the Reformation.

The Society's copy is in excellent condition, with not a leaf missing, the binding and paper still strong and the print clear and bright. On

the first page of Romans are decorations in red, and elsewhere throughout the book are borders and initials in black. That the book has been in the hands of scholars is evidenced by the many underlinings and notations in the margins

in various hands, some in Greek and many in Latin. One wonders about the various eyes that have traveled over its pages and the minds that have dwelt on the thoughts set forth there more than four hundred years ago!

Eleven Days in the Country

By the Rev. T. Torrance, Subagent, Western China

YESTERDAY I returned from a short itinerary of eleven days' journey in the country south of Chengtu. Three colporteurs accompanied me. We visited as many towns or villages as we were days away. Our methods followed the old, well-tried plan of preaching and tract distribution in the reinforcement of Scripture selling. Any place our American Bible Society men visit soon wakes up to their presence. Whatever the exact ultimate outcome, and though they do not meet with the same severe experiences as the apostles, it is always true of any work of theirs in a town that, for the time being, "there is no small stir by the way." The people soon find out there is a challenge abroad to their olden-time sleepy religious indifference, which takes refuge in the easy makeshift of burning a few candles and a little incense to the temple idols. The word goes through the town that the colporteurs have

arrived. The children, unabashed, rush in first, their elders later closing near more sedately from all directions.

We sold 2,500 Gospels and gave away 10,000 tracts. So, many homes have thus the printed page taken into them for the first time. It is great going and a glorious work! "Repentance and salvation, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and reconciliation to God the Heavenly Father": these and none other are the daily topics. From village to village go our men, true messengers of God's Good News.

At the present time, when so many at home are anxious over our position in the interior, it may come as a relief to know how free we, in the west of China, have been from molestation. The crowds listen to us with the sincerest respect. There is no lessening in our opportunities to preach the gospel. Our anxiety is simply to get all the Gospels that we need.

Notes and Comments

THE names and addresses on the labels of this issue of the RECORD have been stamped by a new machine. It is quite likely that, in the distribution of the RECORD this month, there will be some errors. Within a short time we hope to have the new system operating smoothly and effectively. But, if mistakes occur, we trust the RECORD readers will be patient until the necessary adjustments are made.

THE May RECORD on page 85 carried some lines which peculiarly apply to the colporteurs of the Bible Society and were properly attributed to Herodotus. Some daily papers later reported the claim of a living writer to these lines. Mr. Charles J. Shaw, executive assistant to the director of the New York Public Library, states that his claim is only twenty-four centuries late, since they are to be found in Book 8, Urania, paragraph 98.

A TOUCHING and courageous message is that of one of our former donors, who wrote in explanation of inability to continue his annual contributions begun in 1917:

I was temporarily in the Fort Scott jail. The bank was forced to close, and I am broke. Further, I was arrested on some false charges and face trial.

Then he continues:

I have found they have no Bibles in the jail, and some of the inmates would welcome a Bible. In view of my past contributions, I wish you would send two serviceable Bibles to Harry Hyle, sheriff, Fort Scott, Kansas. Tell him they are sent at my request, one for the upstairs and one for the downstairs. When I get on my feet again, I will repay you.

A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD boy in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a paper route that nets him about nine dollars a month, has always made a practice of giving his tithe. When he saw the April issue of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, his heart was so touched that he sent a portion of that tithe to our work for the blind.

A TEACHER in one of the public schools on an Indian reservation writes:

One boy, fifteen years of age, asked me if I had a Bible, and would I let him read "all about it" when he had time after his work was done?—Would I put it right on my desk where he could read it any time he had a few spare minutes?

INTERESTING facts reach us about old Bibles from time to time. This comes from a minister of La Fayette, Indiana:

I want a price list of your Bibles, as I know your Bibles are made very substantial, for I have an old one. It was printed in 1881, sold to a family by the name of Meed in 1881, and presented to my father in 1888. Five of his children have used it. Now four children of my own have read it, and two more are yet to read it.

It has had lots of hard use. My father used it in his ministry work, and I have used it for the same. Besides, you know how hard children are on books. Now, my oldest son says he wants me to get a new one, so he can have this one, that he may preach a few sermons from it; also the third generation preaching from the same blessed Bible.

ONE subscribing herself "your aged friend almost ninety-three years old" recently sent two dollars from California for a dozen copies of the April RECORD, which she wished to distribute.

THIS pleasant word comes from an active leader in an Auxiliary Bible Society which has celebrated its semicentennial:

I wish to tell you how I have appreciated your courtesy in the past and the prompt manner in which the American Bible Society attends to even the smallest matter of business. This, surely, inspires confidence in the Society and the great work it is doing.

THE facts, and especially the spirit recorded in a paragraph of a recent letter from Secretary Aurell, make it one to pass on to others:

We have a tremendously earnest couple in Tokyo, who are constantly using portions instead of ordinary tracts. They feel the pure Scriptures are far better than anything man writes and publishes. I am trying to find out more about this couple and obtain incidents of results of their devoted efforts. But it is almost

impossible to get anything out of them, as they do not want anything they say or do to detract from the glory of God. They are so conscious of the fact that they are "channels only" and, if any real good reaches people through them, it is absolutely due to the direct power of the Word of God and God's Spirit. Therefore, all honor and praise *must* be rendered to Him.

QUITE a unique message reaches us from Brazil through Dr. Tucker, who says it is characteristic of the styles of letters frequently received.

Greetings: With this I register ten milreis for the well-deserving, patriotic, humanitarian, civilizing and well-beloved American Bible Society, and through the munificent and excellent kindness of the distinguished and illustrious enterprise, the American Bible Society, for its work among the poor in general, given by my future, if God wills, wife and myself (here follow the two names); the note of acknowledgment on only one paper and that sent only to me.

ONE of our annuitants, on receipt of her annuity check, sent it back with this message:

Enclosed is check for \$100 which I was about to deposit on my rather slender savings account at the bank; but the May issue of your RECORD led me to send it to you instead. I only wish it were more.

A CORRESPONDENT in Brazil recently reported:

During the month I sold 17 Testaments and 8 Bibles in Portuguese; 4 Bibles in Russian; 17 Testaments and 1 Bible in Ukrainian; 2 Testaments and 2 Bibles in German; and 1 Bible in Czechoslovakian.

Thus is the world drawing together by the mixture of races.

ONE of our donors sends this suggestion:

I am enclosing my three dollars of donation to the Bible Society for Bible work during 1932. Two dollars and forty cents of this amount I have saved up

Standing Committees for 1932-1933

Appointed at the June Meeting of the Board of Managers

Versions

REV. H. A. STIMSON, D.D.
REV. EZRA S. TIPPLE, D.D.
PROF. OSWALD T. ALLIS, PH.D.
PROF. JOHN H. RAVEN, D.D.
PROF. HOWARD C. ROBBINS, D.D.
PROF. J. NEWTON DAVIES, D.D.

Publication

WINTHROP M. TUTTLE
ROSCOE C. E. BROWN, Litt.D.
ELLWOOD M. RABENOLD
JAMES M. STUART
RAY CLARKE TILLINGHAST
PAUL T. JONES
HERBERT S. BAKER

Auditing

ARLANDO MARINE
ORRIN R. JUDD
JAMES H. POST

Auxiliaries and Home Agencies

HENRY S. STEARNS, M.D.
GEORGE D. BEATTYS
SILAS F. HALLOCK, M.D.
GEORGE WOOLSEY, M.D.
HERBERT S. BAKER
REV. JAMES PARKER, PH.D.
REV. MINOT C. MORGAN, D.D.
REV. FREDERICK W. JACKSON

Foreign Agencies

ARTHUR L. BROWN
C. EDGAR ANDERSON
CHARLES F. DARLINGTON
MRS. FINLEY J. SHEPARD
WM. P. STEVENSON, LL.D.
DANIEL BURKE
WM. A. HARBISON
REV. F. M. NORTH, D.D.
REV. R. S. ENGLIS, D.D.
REV. ROBERT M. HOPKINS, D.D.
BISHOP F. J. MCCONNELL, D.D.

Ways and Means

ROSCOE C. E. BROWN, Litt.D.
JOHN T. MANSON
FRANK H. MANN
HOWARD WHITTEMORE
ARLANDO MARINE
JEREMIAH R. VAN BRUNT
WILLIAM W. HALL
GEORGE E. FAHYS
REV. THOS. H. MACKENZIE, D.D.

Finance

FRANK H. MANN
JOHN T. MANSON
ORRIN R. JUDD
ERNEST M. BOWMAN
EDWARD S. MALMAR
JAMES T. VAN STEENBERGH
GEORGE TIFFANY

General Reference { CHAIRMEN OF THE SEVEN STANDING COMMITTEES AS ELECTED BY THEM, AND
FRANK H. MANN, JEREMIAH R. VAN BRUNT, AND JAMES T. VAN STEENBERGH

within the last nine months by saving spare pennies. One never notices them so much. Whenever I get any change which has a penny or two, I always put it away. It is surprising how it mounts up during the months. I shall continue to do this. Hoping that these hard times do not greatly harm or hinder your good work in spreading the Scriptures.

A CONTRIBUTOR from New York sends the message:
Had I a million, much of it would go to the Bible Society. I have spent some years in the foreign mission field. * * * Since a wee child, the Bible has been

my greatest treasure. * * * Do I not know in my own field, South America, how a torn bit of the Gospels, picked up on the street, was the means of converting a Spanish boy, now a minister in the field to his own people, only one of our pupils to do the same things.

• • •
ANOTHER letter, this time from Indiana, gives this message about the February RECORD:
I was on a Washington program of our D. A. R. chapter and I selected the first article in the February RECORD to read before them. They liked it so much that they asked me to loan the magazine to one of the ministers to be used February 22.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS*The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, JULY, 1932

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

JUNE MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE second stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and seventeenth year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, June 2, 1932, at 3:30 o'clock p.m., President Talcott in the chair.

The devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Robert M. Hopkins, D.D., LL.D.

The minutes of the first stated meeting of the year were approved.

Mr. George E. Fahys, newly elected Manager, being present for the first time, was introduced and greeted by those present.

The following memorial minute was read and unanimously adopted:

The Rev. Melancthon G. G. Scherer, D.D.

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society records its hearty appreciation of the faithful services of the Rev. Melancthon G. G. Scherer, D.D., who was a Ministerial Member of the Board and on the Committee on Versions from June, 1925, until his lamented death in New York City, March 9, 1932. He was the descendant of a long line of Lutheran ministers; graduated from Roanoke College, North Carolina, in 1881; was ordained to the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1883; had several pastorates in that denomination in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and South Carolina; was for a time president of North Carolina College, and later a theological professor. He was president of the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South from 1914 until 1918, when he helped to form the United Lutheran Church and then was made its secretary, which office he carried until his death. He was an influential factor in bringing about and building up this United Church. In 1925, he was a delegate to the Universal Conference on Life and Work at Stockholm; and in 1927 to the World Con-

ference on Faith and Order at Lausanne, and was a member of the Continuation Committee of the latter conference at his death.

While the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society and the Committee on Versions will greatly miss his faithful service and his gracious Christian personality, they rejoice that he has entered into the joy of his Lord.

The death of Captain Robert Dollar, a Vice-President of the Society, was reported and the President requested to appoint a committee to prepare a memorial minute.

The report of the Special Committee on Income and Expenses of the Society was read in full by its chairman, Mr. John T. Manson, and after discussion accepted with thanks.

The minutes of the standing committees were presented and approved.

The standing committees were appointed for the year (see page 124).

The Board requested that a message be sent to President Emeritus Hyde on the occurrence of his ninetieth birthday, June 23.

The Board approved of the holding of a conference in London at the invitation of the British and Foreign Bible Society on the relationships of the British, Scotch, and American Bible Societies in areas where they are in contact, and on matters of policy and program; and authorized arrangements for its representation.

A greeting to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America on the occasion of the centennial of that board was approved.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of April, 1932: Brazil, 4,737 volumes, valued at \$2,206.43; Caribbean, 17 volumes, valued at \$39.45; China, 400 volumes, valued at \$96.84; Mexico, 6,540 volumes, valued at \$1,010.90; Philippines, 98 volumes, valued at \$110.06; West Indies, 55 volumes, valued at \$43.84; total volumes, 11,847; total value, \$3,507.52.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of April were 225,268 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

Total Cash Balance \$41,813 29

COMFORT—COUNSEL



"I was sick, and . . . in prison, and ye came unto me."—*Matthew 25: 36*

THE sick in hospitals, and the prisoners in penal institutions need in a very special way the comfort and the counsel of the Holy Scriptures. The American Bible Society ministers effectively to these two classes of persons.

Hospital officials and prison chaplains ask for grants of Bibles in large numbers. The Society's ability to meet these requests is measured by the contributions we receive from generous and sympathetic friends.

In addition to jails and hospitals, the American Bible Society furnishes Scriptures to Orphanages, Sanitariums, Naval Vessels, Reformatories, The Salvation Army, Sunday Schools, Rescue Missions, Soldiers' Homes, U. S. Army Posts, Home Mission Churches, Young People's Societies, U. S. Veterans' Hospitals, Foreign Language Groups, Schools for American Indian Children, and Home Mission Boards and Institutions.

*Contributions, large and small, are earnestly
solicited and may be sent to*

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Bible House, Astor Place, New York, N. Y.



Gentlemen: I enclose \$_____ to help the Society in its general work of Bible distribution.

Name

Address